

division of public housing & rental assistance



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JOBLink Welfare-to- Work Housing Voucher Program *Fact Sheet*

The JOBLink Welfare-to-Work Housing Voucher Program supports families making the transition from public assistance to employment by providing tenant-based rental assistance to meet critical housing needs.

DHCD's Division of Public Housing and Rental Assistance, which administers this program, has the responsibility for regulatory and administrative oversight of all state and federally-aided rental assistance programs which address the needs of low-income families, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

How it works

JOBLink Welfare-to-Work Housing Voucher Program is part of the national Welfare-to-Work Housing Voucher Program, authorized by Congress and implemented in 2000 to provide rental assistance targeted to families leaving welfare for work, for whom rental assistance is critical to employment and housing success. Eligible families are issued JOBLink Housing Vouchers which can be used throughout Massachusetts, allowing the family to select housing that meets their needs and supports their employment, child care, and transportation arrangements. Like the conventional Housing Choice Voucher Program, families will generally pay at least thirty percent of their adjusted monthly income towards rent and utilities, with recertification on an annual basis. All assisted units will be inspected annually to meet minimum standards of health and safety. All routine Housing Choice Voucher Program obligations apply to JOBLink participants, with several important additions: 1) the maintenance of employment and commitment to rapid re-employment in the event of job loss, 2) initial participation period of one year in good standing

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before exercising out-of-state portability, and 3) agreement to participate in program evaluation activities. Agency staff are available to JOBLink participants to provide support, information, and referrals in the event of job loss or other resources needs. JOBLink participants are also eligible and strongly encouraged to join the Family Self-Sufficiency Program to qualify for additional services and financial benefits.

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) contracts with eight regional housing agencies and one local housing authority to administer its portfolio of JOBLink vouchers.

Who is eligible

To be eligible for JOBLink Housing Voucher, a family must fulfill the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a current or former (within the last 24 months) TANF/TAFDC (“welfare”) or Emergency Assistance (EA) recipient, and
- Be employed at least 75 hours per month and/or be a participant in good standing in a qualifying job-readiness or post-employment program leading to employment within four months, and
- Demonstrate critical voucher need (rent-burdened, need to relocate closer to work, temporary / unstable accommodations, and/or homelessness), and
- Meet other routine Section 8 eligibility criteria.

Application process

DHCD operated the JOBLink Housing Voucher Program in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). All applicants must be referred to the appropriate regional administering agency by DTA staff. Families who are interested in applying for the JOBLink Housing Voucher Program should contact their current or former DTA worker or office to request that a JOBLink referral be made. Referred families are placed on the JOBLink waiting list, and will be contacted for further application processing as vouchers become available.

For further information

Please contact the Bureau of Federal Rental Assistance at (617) 727-7130, ext. 655.